

Remarks

Claims 11 and 13 have been amended. Claim 17 has been added.

Claims 1-10 and 16 have been allowed.

The Examiner has rejected applicants' claims 11 and 13 under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by the Suda, et al. patent. With respect to applicants' claim 11, as amended, and its respective dependent claims, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants' independent claim 11 has been amended to better define applicants' invention. More particularly, amended claim 11 recites a viewfinder display apparatus having an eyepiece lens unit, an illumination unit which irradiates illumination light, and a member which has a plurality of region display sections arranged in a viewfinder optical path respectively, to correspond to the focus detection regions. Claim 11 further recites that each of the region display sections includes a frame which surrounds a predetermined region, and a reflecting region which is formed inside the frame and which reflects illumination light from the illumination unit to guide the reflected light to the eyepiece lens unit, and in the reflecting region, an assembly of a plurality of prisms is formed.

Such a construction is not taught or suggested by the cited art of record. More particularly, the Suda, et al. patent discloses a device which includes a reflection plate 13 which has distance measurement field frames 13a-13e. Each of these field frames is formed by a totally reflecting tilt surface, e.g., surface 13aa for the field 13a, of a prism (see, FIG. 4 and column 6, lines 42-48, of the Suda, et al. patent).

The Suda, et al. patent thus fails to teach or suggest that the distance measuring field frames each comprise a frame, a reflecting region inside the frame and an assembly of prisms formed in the reflecting region. Instead, as previously stated, each of the field frames in the

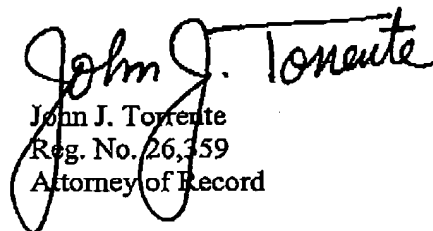
Suda, et al. patent is formed from a totally reflecting tilt surface of a prism. Applicants' amended claim 11, and its respective dependent claims, thus patentably distinguish over the Suda, et al. patent.

In view of the above, it is submitted that applicants' claim 11, and its dependent claims, patentably distinguish over the cited art of record. Accordingly reconsideration of these claims and passage of same with the allowed claims to issue is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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